

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

*Dienerella filum* (Aubé) and *Adistemia watsoni* (Wollaston) (Coleoptera) in Epsom, Surrey.—A concrete multi-storey car-park is not the place where interesting beetles are normally found but one in the centre of Epsom recently proved an exception. Returning to our car after shopping (21.viii.99), my wife and I noticed a large accumulation of pigeon droppings on the third floor of the car park. Examining at home a portion taken later, I was surprised to find the droppings contained two beetle species—*Dienerella filum* and *Adistemia watsoni*—which I had not previously encountered. Both were present in some numbers, accompanied by examples of *Latridius pseudominutus* (Strand), *Stegobium panaceum* (L.) and *Anthrenus* larvae. The droppings lay on a bare concrete floor about 3 m from a large opening to the outside.

*D. filum* was first noted in Britain in herbaria (Fowler, 1889). Subsequently, it has turned up here mainly in museums. Hinton (1945), however, records its occurrence on the Continent in damp houses and among stored cereals.

*A. watsoni* was first found in Britain in 1907 in the Geological Department of the British Museum (Champion, 1912). Since then, it has been recorded from various parts of the British Isles, mainly in museums but on a few occasions from suburban homes and gardens (see e.g. MacKechnie Jarvis, 1972; Allen, 1988). In Germany, it was first recorded from a pigeon's nest on the Rathaus (Town Hall) in Hamburg (Lefkovitch, 1960); von Peez (1967) also refers to its occurrence in pigeons' nests in Hamburg but this may be a repeat of Lefkovitch's record. In Florida, it has been found out of doors in flowers of *Astragalus* (Watson, 1922).

The number of examples of both species present indicated that they had been breeding in the pigeon droppings, but how they arrived at the car park is a matter for speculation. Neither species can fly. The car park is used almost exclusively by shoppers but there is an area at ground level outside the car-park for servicing a number of large shops including some selling food. Carriage in the plumage of a pigeon would seem just possible. I am grateful to Dr D. G. H. Halstead for providing me with a copy of the paper by Lefkovitch.—J. A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

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